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On the Hill

H.R. 24 Passes House Floor

The House passed H.R. 24, "The Child Nutrition and WIC Amendments of 1989," by voice vote on July 31, 1989. Among the many provisions, the bill:

- o Extends most expiring Child Nutrition Programs through fiscal year 1995.
- o Authorizes a Food Service Management Institute.
- o Requires that dietary guidance be developed for the Child Nutrition Programs.
- o Provides grants of up to \$5 million for School Breakfast Program startup costs.
- o Increases authorized funding for the WIC program to \$2.158 billion in fiscal year 1990 and makes numerous changes to the way funds are allocated in the program.
- o Contains several provisions to reduce paperwork in the Child Nutrition Programs.

No formal actions on a child nutrition WIC reauthorization bill have yet been taken in the Senate.



-Story by Robert Beard
Governmental Affairs Staff

This was FNS Way Back When

On August 8, 1969, Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin announced the formation of a new Agency--the Food and Nutrition Service. The parent organization, the Consumer and Marketing Service, with over 10,000 employees, had become too large to handle the broad range of activities connected with the new meat and poultry inspection laws, the marketing activities, and price-support programs for perishable commodities, as well as the growing food programs of the Department.

For fiscal year 1969, which ended on June 30, the soon-to-be Food and Nutrition Service was managing programs totalling \$1.2 billion and employment of 1,227 staff years. The programs were the Special Milk Program (\$104 million), the Child Nutrition Programs (\$253 million), the Food Stamp Program (\$280 million), the Needy Family Program (\$225 million), the Special Feeding Program (\$44 million), and commodity support for schools and institutions (\$300 million). A staff of 1,000 worked exclusively on the new Food Stamp Program.



In that year, FNS served lunches to 17.8 million school children with 1.3 million served free or at reduced prices. The Needy Family Program reached 3.8 million persons, and the Food Stamp Program reached 3.2 million.

(FNS Continued)

Five years earlier, in fiscal year 1965, the Consumer and Marketing Service had spent \$800 million on these programs and employed 389 staff years. The Food Stamp Program cost \$36 million, the Needy Family Program reached 5.8 million persons with an average benefit of \$3.00 per person, and there was no funding for free lunches.

The new agency quickly adopted two major goals:

- o Operate an improved family food assistance program--either food stamp or commodity distribution in all counties in the United States (there were 440 unserved, many of them among the poorest).

- o Provide free and/or reduced-price lunches to 6.6 million needy children eligible for such assistance.

Twenty years later, we are still building on this achievement.

-Story by Jerry Boling
Director, Budget Division

ASD Holds its First Conference

The Administrative Services Division's (ASD) regional conference was recently held at headquarters. All regions, the Minneapolis Computer Support Center, and Human Nutrition Information Service were represented. Since the conference was the first for ASD in memory, it was a good opportunity for regional personnel to meet the headquarters' people whom they had been dealing with over the years.

Regional staff was briefed on selected contracts management and property management subjects by headquarters' staff. Computer demonstrations of automated contracting systems were also given. The General Services Administration presented briefings on the financial aspects of telephone, vehicle, and procurement systems along with a computer demonstration of its automated Fedstrip ordering system.

The regional staff was also treated to a field trip to the Washington Design Center to view systems furniture. The regions found the information very beneficial and comprehensive and recommended a similar meeting be held next year.



-Story by Jeff Cajka
Administrative Services Division
Photo by Pam Faith
Public Information Staff

National Advisory Council Meets in Alexandria

A meeting of the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition will be held August 15-17, at the Radisson Mark Plaza in Alexandria, Virginia.

On the agenda are briefings to update the Council members on recent developments in the WIC program and Commodity Supplemental Food Program. In addition, Dr. Donald Schiff, president, American Academy of Pediatrics, will address the Council on infant feeding issues. Lee Dogoloff, executive director, American Council for Drug Education (ACDE), will also be a guest speaker. ACDE is the contractor for the recently legislated study of appropriate methods for providing drug abuse information and referrals in the WIC program.

-Story by Tama Eliff
Supplemental Food Programs Division

Colorado Video on Sports Nutrition in Production

Colorado Nutrition Education and Training Program (NETP) coordinator Judy Schure is getting more mileage out of NETP funds by working with the Western Dairy Council and Jackie Berning, official dietitian for the Denver Broncos and the U.S. Olympic swim team. Together, they are producing an 8-minute videotape titled "The Inside Edge." The videotape responds to a need for more information on the role nutrition plays in individual and team sports.

Leopard, Ltd., is producing the video, which was scripted by a former teacher. The project is funded by the combined resources of NETP, the Dairy Council, and the U.S. Olympic team. Several outstanding professional and amateur athletes are lending their talents and names to the Colorado production. The coach of the University of Colorado's championship women's basketball team, an olympic swimmer, an outstanding tennis player, a local gymnast who competed for a place on the U.S. olympic team,

and a member of the Denver Broncos team participated in the taping, which began in May.

The videotape will shatter popular myths about nutrition and sports performance: that a soft drink or soda is better than water when competing, that a high-protein diet builds muscle mass, that diet supplements make up for a poor diet, and that a candy bar's "quick fix" prior to an event will help performance.

Background music has been written by the same people who did recent popular McDonald's commercials. When the tape is completed, copies will be furnished to the Colorado Department of Education's various film lending libraries and to the Dairy Council. It will be available for use by coaches and teachers in junior and senior high schools throughout Colorado. Tie-in materials that expand on the videotape's message will also be available for teachers' use.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

MARO Strives for Computer User Excellence

MARO's Information Resources Management (IRM) Unit, Public Affairs Staff, and field office personnel have been actively working to keep staff up to date on computer security, applications, and hardware.

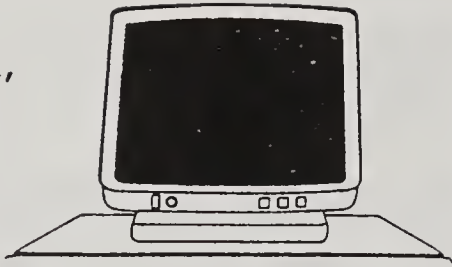
Ed Sheldon, Automated Data Processing (ADP) security officer, provided computer security training to the region's officers in charge (left to right): Joe Justice, Richmond; Jack Florko, Harrisburg; John Wingo, Alexandria; Lloyd Wilson, Philadelphia; and Bill Kluxen, Trenton. They also were given a tour of the new computer room and were supplied with copies of the security manual along with other information relating to microcomputer security.



(MARO Continued Next Page)

(MARO Continued)

Larry Shulan, systems analyst, has been busy training new field secretaries in DOS,



WordPerfect, and Crosstalk. He recently coordinated with Freda Santos, Trenton Area Field Office secretary, and Patrice Thomas, assistant regional administrator's secretary, to implement the new automated time and attendance reporting system (TimeTrax). Shulan regularly provides the office with instruction and technical assistance concerning microcomputer operations.

Marian Wig, public affairs specialist, has been the contact person and trainer for Telemail, the electronic messaging system. She recently revised operational procedures to help the field access and use Telemail.

Eric McNamara, Philadelphia Field Office, serves as the ADP coordinator. McNamara currently is designing a self-training module for WordPerfect and dBASE III PLUS. Employees will use this module for training at their own pace.

MARO's progress in ADP areas is based on cooperation and mutual interest in field automation. The IRM staff has made a considerable difference in the everyday use of the computer system.

-Story by Kim Jabat
Public Affairs Staff
Photo by Pat Cumiskey
MARO Field Operations

Food Programs (SFP) staff recently conducted a regional meeting focusing on concrete steps that state agencies can take in order to save both administrative and food dollars.

The meeting, held in Albany, New York, covered a number of timely WIC issues but concentrated on similarities in state WIC programs and how those similarities can be exploited to save money. "Administrative funds are getting tighter, and we have fewer discretionary dollars to distribute at the regional level," said Lynn Wonders, NERO SFP director. She suggests that states cooperate closely in areas where their programs are the same, share technology, and when practical contract in concert to split up development costs and to lower operating costs through economies of scale.

Regional state staffs demonstrated a number of examples where individual programs could save administrative funds through codevelopment and multistate contracts. "States understand that bargaining and borrowing are more efficient than buying."



NERO Holds WIC Administrative Efficiencies Meeting

Whenever two or more state WIC directors get together, one subject inevitably comes up: money, and how much WIC programs have to do with the amount available to them. NERO Supplemental

Lynn Wonders, NERO SFP director (right), and food program specialists Mary Ellen Cachelin and Agostinho Nunes offered numerous strategies to help State WIC programs provide better services at a lower cost.

-Story and photo by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

Iowa County Adopts CSFP System Developed by SWRO

Two representatives from Polk County (Des Moines), Iowa, were in Dallas recently to review the Commodity Supplemental Food Program automated delivery system developed by SWRO for the New Orleans program. Polk County is adopting SWRO's system and plans to load it using the bar-coding concept.



Iowa technicians Linda Wiles (left) and Steve Block (right) spent most of their time while in Dallas with system's developer, SWRO IRM Director Jimmie Davis (center). Polk County's operations are scheduled to begin September 1989.

-Story and photo by Blanche Jackson
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

Child Care With a Touch of Creativity

Montana's Child Care Food Program director doesn't think a government program has to be overpowered by bureaucratic red tape. In fact, Peggy Baraby uses the program's flexibility to add creativity to child care.

Baraby, whose career in state government has spanned accounting, statistical work, personnel, and program nuts and bolts, has been supervisor of Montana's child care program since 1983. Under her tutelage, the number of children participating has doubled. Efforts to improve the program statewide have led her to focus special attention on nutrition education as a way to reach everyone.

With the cooperation of a registered dietitian, she provides some creative nutrition training. They use a set of three videotapes on iron, calcium, and nutritious snacks along with traveling nutrition education shows to spread the word about proper diet to sponsors, providers, participants, and even parents. The shows fit into a suitcase

and are complete with costumes, props, scripts, and even parent handouts. A hand puppet show, complete with patterns so centers can make their own puppets and stage additional programs in the same vein, is also a big hit on the road. The suitcases are sent by mail from center to center and provide lots of inspiration. Sometimes local high school students, drama groups, or parents get involved in productions. Sometimes sponsors put on a show for a group of homes in the area.

The impetus for all this creativity originates with Baraby's undergraduate degree in art, but a lot of it comes from the kind of person she is. Whether it's kids or the adults who'll soon participate in the program, this is a lady who cares, and it shows in her program. Montana's Big Sky Country is Big Caring Country, too.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

WRO Transmits Commodity Surveys Via FOODCOM

WRO Food Distribution Program's (FDP) long-awaited moment has finally arrived. On May 23, the first commodity survey was transmitted from San Francisco to Arizona and California state agencies to commence the pilot of the FOODCOM computer system.



Dennis Stewart, WRO FDP director, and Dennis Setlock, WRO FDP, look on as Bob Fitzgerald (seated), WRO FDP, transmits the first state surveys over the FOODCOM system.

FOODCOM, the western FDP's pilot electronic mail system, is designed to communicate time-sensitive issues to WRO state agencies and to enable states to order commodities electronically. The FOODCOM system was initiated and funded by western regional states in conjunction with WRO and FoodCom, Inc. According to Dennis Stewart, WRO FDP director, the new project will save time and money for both state agency and WRO staff by automatically editing orders.

Oregon and Washington uploaded the complete system in June. Other states in WRO will adopt the communications part without electronic ordering capabilities. Idaho and the Pacific Islands have chosen not to enter the system at present.

Dennis Setlock, WRO FDP; Dennis Stewart, WRO FDP director; and Bob Staub, a marketing representative of FoodCom, Inc., demonstrated and explained FOODCOM at the recent conference of the National Association of State Agencies on Food Distribution in Texas.

-Story and photo by Kristen Bole
WRO Public Affairs Staff

NERO Holds Job Fair Targeting Minority Candidates

"Federal agencies must set the standard for minority employment," stated Haro McLean, NERO administrator. With this in mind, NERO Personnel and EEO/Civil Rights Divisions have been working in concert to inform potential minority candidates of employment opportunities in FNS. "I think the hardest part is just getting the word out to minority groups and individuals that Federal employment is available and that there are good jobs," McLean said. "Once that is done it's just a matter of matching the right applicants with the right jobs."

Beverly Hayes, NERO EEO/Civil Rights director, discusses FNS employment opportunities with participants at a recent NERO job fair. In preparation, Hayes had conducted selective mailings



to notify potential candidates of the fair, concentrating on minorities. Turnout at the fair was excellent, and a number of positions have been filled by participants.

-Story and photo by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of May with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>May 1988</u>	<u>Apr. 1989</u>	<u>May 1989</u>	<u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>				
People participating (mil.)	18.8	19.0	18.8	
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	926.2	986.9	971.8	
Average bonus per person	\$ 49.30	\$ 51.97	\$ 51.60	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,026.7	1,091.3	1,076.2	
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	90.6	91.5	91.5	
Children participating (mil.)	23.5	24.3	23.5	
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.2	11.6	11.1	
Percentage of lunches served free	40.5	40.7	40.2	
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.5	6.8	6.6	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	355.4	370.9	372.5	
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	38.8	40.0	40.0	
Children participating (mil.)	3.7	3.9	3.8	
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	86.6	86.5	86.1	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	55.4	52.5	60.2	
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>				
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	40.2	41.4	42.7	
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	31.6	34.3	36.6	
Percentage of all meals served free	78.0	78.7	78.6	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	54.2	59.7	62.0	
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>				
People participating (mil.)	3.7	4.2	4.2	
Food cost (\$ mil.)	122.5	124.3	124.6	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	151.7	158.2	162.6	
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>				
People participating (thous.)	209.0	234.1	244.1	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.4	4.0	4.2	
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>				
Number of projects in operation	107	109	109	
People participating (thous.)	131.2	141.1	140.1	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.2	4.8	4.8	
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>				
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	49.9	26.1	25.5	

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of July 25, 1989.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Economist	(A)	GS-0110	13	08/14/89	89-141	PID
o Food Program Spec.	(FNS-N)	GS-0120	13/14	08/21/89	89-146	ORO
o Food Program Spec.	(A)	GS-0120	12	08/28/89	89-147	CND
o Program Analyst	(FNS-N)	GS-0345	13	08/23/89	89-148	PID
o Program Analyst	(FNS-N)	GS-0345	13	08/23/89	89-149	PID
o Program Analyst	(FNS-N)	GS-0345	13	08/23/89	89-150	PID

Office Location

PID - Program Information Division
 ORO - Office of Regional Operations
 CND - Child Nutrition Division

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition
 Service - Nationwide

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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